

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

Public involvement for the general management plan at Isle Royale began with a workshop for representatives of key park stakeholders that was held in February 1994. The GMP effort formally began in July 1995. The planning team met on the island to familiarize team members from outside the park with the resources and to discuss the scope and issues of the plan. During that trip the planning team spoke about the project at two public programs. In November 1995 the public was formally notified of the planning effort and introduced to the planning process by means of *Newsletter #1*. The rest of the park staff (those not on the planning team) were introduced to the process and their comments were solicited as part of public involvement.

Part of the framework for the plan (and the first task for the planning team) was to define the purpose and significance of the park using the input from the 1994 workshop. In *Newsletter #2* the public was asked to review the planning team's purpose and significance statements and a list of 26 preliminary issues. Nearly 300 responses were received and 50–60 people attended each public meeting in Duluth, Minnesota, and Houghton and Lansing, Michigan, to provide additional comments. The original mailing list of 1,000 quickly rose to nearly 2,500 people, which indicated intense interest in Isle Royale even at the early stages of planning.

The results of the public input from *Newsletter #2* were presented in June 1996 via *Newsletter*

#3. The revised purpose and significance statements, park emphasis statements, revised issues statements, potential management zones, and possible alternative concepts were presented. There were again a large number of responses and the results were reported in November 1996 in *Newsletter #4*.

Using the public input, the planning team developed the alternative concepts in more detail and presented them with maps in *Newsletter #5* in February 1997. Public meetings were held in Ann Arbor and Houghton, Michigan, and Duluth, Minnesota, to present the management alternatives for public comment in March 1997. There was significant response to the newsletter and each meeting was attended by 75 to 150 people. Using that input the planning team developed a preliminary preferred alternative, which was presented in *Newsletter #6* in July 1997.

A *Draft General Management Plan* was produced and distributed for public review in March 1998. Public meetings were held in April 1998 at St. Paul and Duluth, Minnesota, and Houghton and Ann Arbor, Michigan. Approximately 75–150 people attended each of the meetings. Additionally, nearly 600 responses were received by mail or on the internet. The preferred alternative was subsequently revised and is presented in this *Final General Management Plan / Environmental Impact Statement*.